

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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R 231020Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9188

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMZDBASSY MOSCOW 246

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA KPETQ

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6337

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR, BG

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSSAIN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: DACCA 6261

1/. SUMMARY. I SAW FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN THIS MORNING FOR ASSESSMENT OF LMIT WEEK'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. HE SUMMARIZED KN AS A SATISFACTORY DISSEMINATION OF BDG'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING REASSURANCES ON THEIR INTENTIONS RE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT (READ, INCLUDING PAKISTAN) AND STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ALL COUNTRIES (READ BOTH USSR AND PRC). IN THIS MEETING SOMEWHAT COMPRESSED BY OTHER APPOINTMENTS, TABARAK SEEMED LESS RQHAILED THAN AT ANY TIME IN RECENT WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

2. TABARAK RELATED THIS MOSCOW VISIT TO THE ONE TO NEW DELHI, AND SAID THIS WAS ALSO INTENDED TO CLARIFY MISGIVINGS REGARDING BLH'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. HE
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SAID THE SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT ANTI-SOVIET CRITICISM IN THE PRESS AND ALSO ABOUT EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT ACTIVITIES. BY EXTREME LEFT HE SAID THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT PRC INFLUENCE.

3. HE SAID THAT HE REITERATED BDG'S COMMITMENT TO ITS NON-ALIGNED POLICY, TO WIDEST POSSIBLE FRIENDSHIPS. HE SAID HE DID NOT DISCUSS ANY OF THEIR FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT INDIAN MILITARY OR POLITICAL INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS BANGLADESH BECAUSE THESE MATTERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN UP WITH INDIA AND IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CORRECT TO RAISE THESE IN MOSCOW. SIMILARLY HE SAID HE HAD NOT ASKED THE SOVIETS TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO HELP THE INDIANS UNDERSTAND BDG'S CONCERNS. TABARAK REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED TO THEM ANY CONCERN ABOUT RECENT BDG ECONOMIC DECISIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE HAD A "RIGHTIST" FLAVOR. IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID, THE SOVIETS WERE THEMSELVES CORRECT AS THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN AS AN INTERNAL BANGLADESH MATTER.

4. TABARAK WAS RELUCTANT TO REHEARSE THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS MOSCOW TALKS IN ANY DETAIL AND KEPT REFERRING TO THE PRESS NOTE ISSUED AT END OF VISIT (REFTEL). HE CONCURRED IN MY OBSERVATION THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN THE SUBCONTINENT SEEMED TO PUT A SOVIET STAMP OF APPROVAL ON BDG'S MOVES TOWARD PAKISTANIHO
EHASTENED TO SUGGEST HAT REMA JDR
OF THE SENTENCE REFERRING TO FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL COUNTRIES IN THAT REGION AND WORLD AT LARGE MET SOVIETS' NEED FOR AN UNDERSTANDING THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT LOSE ANYTHING BY FUTURE BDG-PRC RELATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT HE CONFIRMED THE ADVANCE PARTY OF THE PAKISTAN MISSION WAS EXPECTED ANY DAY AND THAT THE PRC WOULD FOLLOW SOON THEREAFTER.

5. TABARAK CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT HE HAD THE SOVIETS HAD ALSO DISCUSSED CULTURAL AND BARTER TRADE RELATIONS, AND HAD AGREED THESE WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT PREVAILING LEVELS.

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6. COMMENT. WHILE HARDLY A LIVELY RECONTEUR BY NATURE, TABARAK SEEMED MORE CAUTIOUS THAN NORMAL IN DISCUSSING THIS VISIT. HE CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS PROVING HIS NON-ALIGNMENT BY AVOIDING DETAILS AND FOLLOWING THE GERNERAL-ITIES OF THE PRESS NOTE. I ALSO GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ALLEGED OMISSION OF ANY DISCUSSION OF INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS WAS BOTH BECAUSE HE FELT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FUTILE FROM THE BDG'S STANDPOINT AND PERHAPS BECAUSE HE

RECALLED GOI'S HIGHLY ADVERSE REACTION TO THEIR DISCUSSING
GOI-BDG BILATERAL RELATIONS IN ANY DETAIL WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.

7. SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE THAN TABARAK AND EVEN FIRYUBIN'S
TONE IN HIS BROADER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL
WERE SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR (DCM) GROUSHETSKY'S REMARKS
TO ME AT A DINNER PARTY LAST NIGHT. THE LALBIPB AID

TABARAK'S VISIT WAS MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THAT OF
MOSHTAQUE'S SPECIAL ENVOY, M. AHMED, LAST SEPTEMBER, AS
DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THIS ONE PRODUCED A PRESS
NOTE INDICATING POINTS OF AGREEMENT. ALSO GROUSHETSKY
SPOKE IN FARILY COMPLEMENTARY TERMS ABOUT THE GROWING
EFFICIENCY OF THE BDG'S BUREAUCRACY, AND THE INCREASING SIGNS
OF CONTROL BY GENERAL ZIA.
CHESLAW

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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